

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/775,323

Examiner

Dmitry Suhol

Applicant(s)

OLSEN ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed on 2/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-9.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The specific limitations of the combination of structural features and sequential method steps of "...a magnetic-responsive drawing tablet having a housing, a writing surface and means for displaying an image responsive to magnetic contact on the writing surface, means for erasing the image, and at least four magnetic stamps appropriately sized relative to the writing surface and shaped as big line, little line, big curve and little curve, the method sequentially comprising...a teacher stamping the writing surface with one of the at least four magnetic stamps aligned with either the upper left-hand corner region of the housing or a central upper region of the housing to form a part letter image...the teacher erasing the part letter image...a student imitating the teacher stamping of step (a)...the teacher stamping the writing surface with one or more of the at least four magnetic stamps to form a complete letter image...the teacher erasing the complete letter image...the student imitating the teacher stamping of step (d)" are not anticipated or made obvious over the prior art of record. For example, Yamazaki '484 discloses a magnetic display apparatus which teaches a housing (2), a writing surface (10), a means for displaying an image responsive to magnetic contact on the writing surface (figure 5A), a means for erasing the image (elements 24a and 24) and the use of magnetic stamps which are appropriately sized relative to the writing surface (col. 3, lines 59-61). Brinkley '883 discloses a magnetic display apparatus (figure 5 and col. 1, lines 33-40) which teaches that it is known to provide a plurality of members used for display in the shape of a big line (10), little line (11), big curve (18), and little curve (19),

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among others, for the purpose of teaching the construction and recognition of letters of the alphabet (col. 2, lines 46-48). Larsen '118 also discloses an educational device which utilizes a plurality of members in the shape of a big line, little line, big curve, and little curve for the purpose of teaching children how to form letters and numbers and further teaches covering a source word so that a child may formulate the word from memory (col. 4, lines 29-37). However, prior art of record fails to disclose or teach the combination of the above claimed structural elements in combination with the above sequential method steps.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

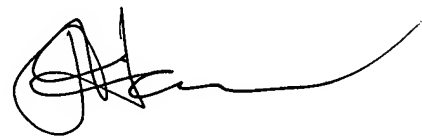
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dmitry Suhol whose telephone number is 571-272-4430. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Friday 9am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jessica Harrison can be reached on 571-272-4449. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Harrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JESSICA HARRISON
PRIMARY EXAMINER